

THE
AUSTRALIAN

U.F.O.

BULLETIN



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WELCOME

The Society welcomes reports of unusual phenomena. These are evaluated on their own merits and if requested are kept in the strictest confidence.

The Society exchanges information with similar Australian and overseas organisations, as well as scientists, and disseminates to the public information on local, interstate and overseas developments in its quarterly publication, the "Australian U.F.O. Bulletin", which is posted to all members.

All communications should be addressed per the return address shown on the rear of this bulletin.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

For details of your membership renewal, refer to the month/year coding on the address label of your latest bulletin. This indicates the last bulletin for which you are financial - we would appreciate your renewal by the date shown.



Victorian U.F.O. Research Society

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EDITORIAL



From time to time, we present editorials from international publications, which generally express our views on specific aspects of ufology.

This publication follows on from our last Discussion Night, when we played a video on Ufo sightings over the United States Capital in 1952, and further Discussion at this coming meeting, to bring members up to date on the overall early UFO history.

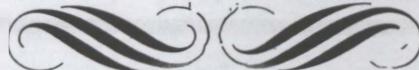
This Guest Editorial is written by Barry Greenwood co-author of Clear Intent, which we recommend to all our members.

It was recently announced that the National Enquirer, which is a tabloid not generally regarded for its accuracy of reporting, will be publishing in Australia so we can expect to be reading much of the same as reported in the following editorial.



We have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that UFOs seem to be making a comeback in the press. The bad news is that the type of coverage in wide-circulation sources is deplorable to say the least. The New York Post, 11-21-92, recently blared a page one headline, "Daffy Doc," in its discussion of a New York dermatologist's bizarre UFO beliefs and his subsequent problems with the New York State Health Commission. Hustler Magazine has chipped in with its own cover article, "UFO Nuts," a useless piece attacking those individuals that the author, Doug Vincent, perceives as flaky people. Harpers Magazine, December 92, contributes a story titled "Tabloid Journalism 101," a transcript of court testimony from a tabloid writer who admitted to falsifying, among other things, UFO tales.

Now there is really very little that serious UFO researchers can do to prevent the media from painting the UFO field with such a broad brush. Such irresponsibility is everywhere. In dealing with the media UFO researchers can practice restraint by not mixing personal beliefs with information, by showing as much criticism and intolerance of nonsense as any rational person would show, and by presenting the best evidence for the reality of the UFO phenomenon, not the most bizarre and outrageous. Payment is long-term and costly, as evidenced by the stories in the beginning of this commentary.



— ON THE UFO TRAIL —

By Paul Norman

December 7th marked our record attendance at the Royal Society Hall, for viewing of the Documentary, Unidentified Flying Objects, the only video to be shown to our members that has ever received applause. There was standing room only for late comers.

The video featured the history of the Modern Day UFO Story, which began in 1947, when the reality began to dawn on the minds of officials that ufo's were real.

Featured in the video were the roles played by actors of such out-standing personnel of that period as Dewey Fournet, who was at the time, Air Force Intelligence Director of the Pentagon UFO Project, Albert Chop, USAF Public Relations Officer, Edward Ruppelt, who was in charge of Project Blue Book at that time, as well as other top officials of the American Intelligence Community.

Veteran UFO researchers are familiar with the official activity during those years, However, the video was excellent viewing for members who have become interested in the subject in more recent years. It is a must for students of ufology.

My involvement in Ufology commenced with a sighting in 1953 which illustrated to me that the UFO's were not nonsense, as was considered by the majority of the general public at that time when the Gallup Poll revealed that only 15% of the population realized that the UFO phenomena was real. That reality has now grown to over 50% in recent years. This in spite of the attempted debunkings and denials by arm chair experts and cover-up policies.

The documentary reveals that UFO's were being investigated under project "SIGN", but due to increasing interest in the subject, as well as more unusual aerial objects being sighted constantly, the officials attempted one of their deception tricks. They closed down project "sign", with a lot of publicity, but quietly switched investigation to project "GRUDGE". After this change became known, the explanation was that too many reports were jamming communication channels. This could have been rectified by requiring reports to be sent by mail instead of other means. The facts were, officials were receiving all the reports they could handle from their own Military Personnel. The concentration on encounters that became public was attempted debunking procedures to distract public interest. These attempts at deception did not end with that period of 1952.

On the night of 22nd January, 1958, Major Donald Keyhoe, then Director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, appeared on the American CBS Coast to Coast TV Network. The hour-long program was supposed to allow 30 minutes to Major Keyhoe and 30 minutes to the U.S Airforce spokesman. The Airforce spokesman was the first to speak during which time he covered known hoaxes and mistaken identity cases. He carefully avoided the solid

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unexplained cases. At the end of his allotted time, the Air Force representative kept on talking. There was only 10 minutes time left for Keyhoe to present the positive side.

Keyhoe had been talking for only four minutes when the sound faded. I thought the problem was in my TV set. I turned the dial to full volume, but still no sound. It was only after reading next morning's newspaper, that I realized he had been cut off the air. I immediately wrote to Keyhoe for the reason and requested details of what he was saying when cut off the air. So many people made the request, that he replied by mimeographed letter which stated:-

"Please accept my apologies for this form letter made necessary by hundreds of queries about the UFO Program. The statement I began when cut off the air was as follows: In the last six months, we (NICAP) have been working with a Senate Committee investigating official secrecy on unidentified flying objects. If open hearings are held, I feel it will prove beyond doubt, that the flying saucers are real machines under intelligent control."

"The statement was discussed with a sponsor's representative and he agreed it would get wide attention, but later the producer told me that since he personally was not informed he had no choice under CBS RULES, but to cut me off: however even though this action was not deliberate, censorship by the CBS network, strong Air Force pressure previously had caused deletion of a vital statement from my script. This script contained a statement listing four Air Force documents which had been confirmed by the former Chief of the Air Force Project Blue Book, Capt. Edward Ruppelt and by another former Project Officer. The documents were:

1. A September 23 1947. Secret. Conclusion by Air Technical Intelligence Centre (ATIC) that the ~flying saucers~ were real.
2. A 1948 top secret ATIC document concluding that the UFO's were interplanetary spaceships.
3. A secret Air Force Intelligence Analysis of UFO manoeuvres, also concluding that the objects were interplanetary.
4. A secret report by a panel of top scientists convened by the Pentagon in January 1953, urged that the Air Force quadruple its UFO project, and that they give the American people all UFO information, including secret Air Force conclusions, unsolved sightings and photo analysis. (These recommendations were officially rejected).

According to one of their program staff, when my script was shown to the Air Force representative, he warned that the Air Force would immediately deny the documents existence if I were permitted to make the statement. This would also include denouncing the quoted source - their own former Project Chief's own statement - even though the book containing these items had been cleared by Air Force Security and Review.

This Air Force threat which appears to be Censorship by intimidation, caused my planned statement

continued

to be cut out. In addition, though the program officials tried to present an impartial program, the Air Force insistence on an unfair share of the time, forced me to delete many factual items refuting most Air Force claims. Among these were: Listing of official orders which silenced armed forces personnel; Citing of an Air Force letter to NICAP by Major Gen. Joe Kelly, Director Legislative Liaison USAF referring to release UFO Reports and admitting they are Classified, "For official use only".

It was after receiving this letter that I joined the fight to end the policy of public deception by joining NICAP.

Afterwards NICAP became so effectual in almost bringing about open public hearings, that NICAP became defunct by outside influences, but many of its original researchers continue in other organisations.

Project Blue Book did not escape the same fate as project SIGN and GRUDGE, but due to people becoming more aware of obvious cover-up attempts, Blue Book demise had to be done in a more subtle manner.

In 1966, officialdom's plot was to secure a computerized selection from the scientific community. The choice was Dr. Edward Condon, an outstanding sceptic at the university of Boulder, Colorado. Even before his selected investigators had commenced investigation, Condon was making statements to the public that UFO's were nonsense. This was the official canned propaganda by the sponsors of the Condon Committee.

After analysis of reports commenced, it began to dawn on some of the Committee that UFO's were not nonsense and they expressed strong disagreement with Condon and his efforts to bury, once again, the reality of these unknowns.

Many details of the inside story of the Colorado project are covered by Dr. David Saunders, one of the project researchers, in his book "UFO's Yes!", subtitled 'Where the Condon Committee went wrong'.

I became aware of this disagreement during May 1967, when I was requested by Dr. Saunders to visit the project and present examples of typical cases from Australia. These were cases reported to and investigated by VUFORS. Some of the reports had been investigated by the RAAF as well.

Condon published his report in 1969, titled Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. Judy Magee refers to this report as 'probably the only book with the 'conclusions' at the front, designed to kill interest in any further reading because over one third of the reports investigated were never explained'. They remained unknowns. It was confirmed that Dr. Condon never read his own report and made only two visits to the project office.

The World Press at first swallowed 'the conclusions' at the front without reading further - even

continued

—ON THE UFO TRAIL—

officials in foreign countries were using the Condon report to help debunking attempts to bury the UFO's, but the mystery objects refused to die! By 1973, the interest in and credibility of the Condon Report was on the decline. The UFO reports were increasing.

From the early 1950's, one of the former official debunkers was Donald Menzel, Professor of Astronomy at Harvard University. He referred to himself as the Arch Enemy of Ufology, but his debunking attempts became so ridiculous, he became useless as an official spokesman, not only with regard to UFO's, but concerning other matters as well. He passed on in December 1976 but UFO's are still here. (See the Curious Case of Donald Menzel this issue). Menzel has long since been superseded by Philip Klass who heads the sceptics organisation in America. His 'Klassic' track record in producing fake research, misrepresenting cases and abusing reliable researchers out-Klasses even Menzel.

Colleagues of Philip Klass in Australia copy the same method as their counterpart in America. Their comments regarding the Knowles Family encounter on the Nullabor are a typical example. The South Australian spokesman for the sceptics described the incident as a temperature inversion, caused by the head-lights of a vehicle descending into the basin of the Nullabor Plain 80 kilometers away to the east from where the action took place.

The facts are, the lights of a vehicle at the location given by the sceptic, would be shining into a cliff and turning south towards the sea. In addition, the experience of the Knowles Family, took place over a considerable period of time. A vehicle travelling down the highway near Eucla, only takes less than a minute. Truck driver Graham Henly, who was driving east a short distance ahead of the Knowles car saw the object in his rear vision mirror - back to the west - where the Knowles car was at the time. Although the false explanation of the sceptic was taken quite seriously by many, it was contrary to the fact and follows the track record which competes with the 'flat earth' society for the wooden spoon!



EYRE HIGHWAY - EUCLA. W.A.

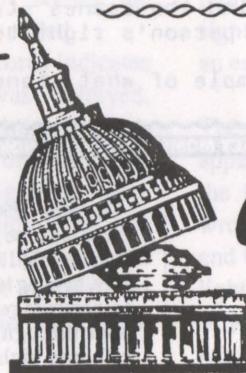
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—ON THE UFO TRAIL—



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FOIA DIRTY TRICKS

The April-June 1992 issue of Common Cause magazine reported a story very much relevant to our activities. It seems that an ad hoc group consisting of NASA, the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy was convened to study the SP-100 program, which is a plan to build a nuclear-powered space station on the moon. The group instructed an employee of the NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland to prepare a memo in November 1989, titled "Suggestions for Anticipating Requests Under the Freedom of Information Act."

Some of the suggestions:

"At the conclusion of meetings or at the end of the day review your notes and consider whether you really need to retain them. If you do, take time to rewrite them in such a way as to minimize any adverse impact should

continued.

they be publicly disclosed. Then destroy your old notes."

"Use yellow stick-ons or other similar attachable tabs to annotate personal copies of documents you wish to retain... If retained, yellow stick-ons would also be subject to FOIA disclosure. However since there is no obligation under FOIA to provide documents in any particular order or relationship to each other, furnishing out of context copies of stick-ons can render any information released significantly less meaningful. In this regard, printing rather than writing in script also generally makes it harder to assign authorship (and context) to a particular note or document."

"Avoid cross references to other documents that can lend context to a document and thereby enhance its informational value should it be ultimately disclosed."

The document was discovered by a subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. When questioned by a subcommittee member about the outrageousness of the memo, NASA Administrator Richard Truly quickly repudiated the document and said it wouldn't happen again.

Not that we should be surprised at government agencies taking steps to subvert the Freedom of Information Act, this should be expected. There does appear to be a double standard at work when a citizen attempts to query an agency about its operations: The public stance, which preaches loudly about following instructions, obeying the law, and respecting FOIA exemptions, and the private, behind-the-scenes stance, which mocks the idea of openness and schemes against a person's right to know what their tax dollars are doing.

This is just one small example of what stands in our way in keeping you information-conscious.

KEY MOMENTS IN ASTRONOMY

The curious case of Donald Menzel

**One of America's best known
astronomers died at the age of 75 in
December eighteen years ago.**

Donald Menzel, Paine Professor of Astronomy at Harvard, died on 14 December 1976. He is probably best remembered for the Whipple-Menzel theory (1954) which asserted that Venus was completely covered with water. Menzel was famously intolerant, prone to vendettas against those he disagreed with.

Menzel led a double life. The crusty astronomer was a high-ranking agent of the National Security Agency, America's most secret intelligence organisation. He used his position to blacken the reputations and damage the careers of scientific opponents, produced fake research supporting his masters, betrayed his president and was suspected of treason.

Documents released by Harvard reveal Menzel joined US Intelligence in 1930, prior to a meteoric promotion from menial status at the Lick Observatory to an associate professorship. In 1941 he was openly acknowledged as a Commander in Naval Intelligence, a position held for many years after his normal retirement. In 1950 Menzel appeared before a secret court to face charges of disloyalty and abuse of authority. The case was not proven.

The early 1950s saw the zenith of the UFO scare. The US Air Force took the problem seriously – the sudden appearance of Russia's MiG 15 showed unknown aircraft posed a threat. The navy, fighting to retain control over their aircraft carriers, were desperate to reduce USAF prestige. Menzel, paid enormous sums through naval and NSA sponsored 'consultancies', authored highly publicised books asserting UFOs were misidentified natural phenomena. He consistently misrepresented cases to discredit Air Force investigators.

Menzel's public abuse provoked a summons to the Pentagon and a stern reprimand. Out of favour with Eisenhower's government, he bided his time. The seediest period of his career began in 1960. Menzel – still a serving officer – offered to supply presidential candidate John F. Kennedy with secret data on intelligence activity under Ike's administration.

Curiously enough Kennedy joined the Board of Overseers at Harvard and chose astronomy as his special field. Menzel's career bloomed. The files now reveal a sordid stack of letters to JFK, abusing rivals and supposed friends, and urging positions of authority be given to the selfless Menzel. Many were.

Menzel was a good astronomer, yet he sacrificed honour as a scientist to political paymasters.

Ian Seymour

FROM: "ASTRONOMY NEWS"
NOV-DEC '92

THE NEW ZEALAND UFO WAVE OF 1909

Tony Brunt

For a little over a month in the winter of 1909 hundreds of New Zealanders reported seeing "airships" of varying shapes and sizes moving about in the sky. Sighting reports came in from people over the length and breadth of the country and in the areas of maximum airship activity public interest in the subject reached such a high level that crowds gathered on the streets at night in the hope of seeing the "phantom airship", as it was then called. My research in old newspaper records indicates that more than one object was involved, although at no time during the sighting flap was a simultaneous sighting of two or more craft reported to any newspaper. Sightings were reported in both daytime and night-time and most were made at long range. In the small number of close-range sightings reported no witness was apparently ever closer than about 100-200ft.

At the time of the flap no manoeuvrable airships or gas-filled balloons were being flown in New Zealand. The newspapers which accepted the airship hypothesis and did not try to explain the sightings away as misinterpreted natural phenomena plumb for the belief that a back-country inventor was responsible for the objects. This theory fell into disfavour when the phantom airships were reported over eastern Australia as the New Zealand wave died.

The airship activity began--and was most

intense--over the southern end of the South Island where numerous settlements had sprung up during the gold rush in the years before. In the following weeks the objects apparently moved northwards, working their way up the country before apparently moving on to Australia.

The following account tries only to outline a representative cross-section of the total of sightings that occurred in New Zealand, with an emphasis on the more interesting reports.

The first sighting of something strange apparently occurred in Southland in 1908. At the height of the 1909 flap a correspondent wrote to an Otago newspaper¹ stating that he and two other men had seen a strange aerial light on three separate occasions while they were out trapping in Southland the previous winter (June-July-August 1908). Once they had seen a powerful light like a searchlight moving in the sky and two other lights were also seen streaking about².

The 1909 sightings began in July. The first newspaper to report a sighting was the Clutha Free Press, of Balclutha, which stated on the 13th that several residents in nearby Stirling had sworn that they had seen the lights of what

1. Otago Daily Times, Dunedin, July 31, 1909.

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could only have been an airship moving about in the sky a few nights before³. A break of several days occurred and then the airship was again sighted at Kaka Point, also only a few miles distant. Somewhat belatedly on July 27 the Clutha Leader, of Balclutha, gave an account of the sightings. A Mr. George Smith told the paper that the object was seen by residents at the beach every night during the week commencing Sunday, 18th. The newspaper continued:

On Saturday night (July 24) some half dozen boys were playing on the beach at Kaka Pt near Mr. Bates and saw a huge illuminated object moving about in the air. It appeared as if it was going to alight at Kaka Pt. The light from it was distinctly reflected on the roof of Dr. Fitzgerald's cottage. The boys thought it was being attracted by their lantern and ran away and left it on the beach. The airship then

2. Note on page 26 of "Flying Saucers--Serious Business", by Frank Edwards, that during much of the autumn of 1908 prior to the 1909-10 American wave there were frequent reports, particularly from the New England States, of bright lights moving swiftly through the skies to erratically for meteors.

3. The Free Press folded in 1926 and most of its old files, including those for the year 1909, have now disappeared. The important part this paper played during the 1909 flap has been pieced together from comments made by its contemporaries.

glided around the rocks at the old pilot station and nearly came in contact with them. It shortly afterwards disappeared. The boys said it was as big as a house.

On Sunday night the mysterious object again made its appearance at the beach and was seen by Mr. George Smith and Mr. Poulter about 8.30. Mr. Smith viewed it through a very powerful night glass. It was apparently over Mr. Aitkenhead's

house when he first saw it, but it glided high in the air and sailed north in the direction of Kaitangata, sweeping west and east and finally disappearing over the horizon. About 10.30 Mr. Smith was called out by Mr. Poulter to see the airship which had again made its appearance. This time it headed out to sea and eventually disappeared over the horizon or into the sea. As seen through the glass Mr. Smith said it appeared to be a fair size, dark superstructure with a powerful headlight and two smaller ones at the side. It might convey the impression of being under control, and likewise of moving fast. Mr. Smith did not jump to any conclusions. "It was seen by people at the beach every night last week and it will probably be seen again tonight", said Mr. Smith yesterday. If it appears again within range some of the boys are going to try to "prick the bubble" with a bullet.

On July 19 at the coastal town of Oamaru, one hundred miles north, three residents also reported sighting a flickering light moving in the sky. From this time on reports came flooding. On July 23 a particularly well researched sighting occurred at Kelso. A small

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group of school children and some residents reported that an airship came down and bobbed around in the sky over the school for a few minutes. An Otago Daily Times Reporter entrained for the small town and on July 28 cabled back his report:

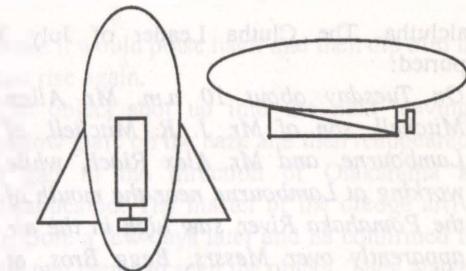
All those scholars who saw the ship were interrogated singly and independently and were asked to draw an impression of what they had seen. The result was six drawings, the degree of resemblance and unanimity of which was nothing short of dumb founding to all sceptics.

Special interrogation of the boys revealed the fact that none had drawn the diagram before nor had they been interested in airships prior to witnessing this one. One of the boys in addition to the side view was able to draw it from beneath as the ship passed over his head. This showed two sails on each side. One boy drew a revolving propellor at the rear.

The report went on to say that there was a box beneath the body of the ship but no one could be seen in it. The vessel was entirely black in colour. One boy said that he had seen the propellor reverse and the vessel suddenly turned sharply. The six drawings were reproduced in the paper on July 31. A composite of these drawings would look something like this.--

On July 24 the airship was again seen near Kelso⁴. A dozen tradesmen who were working six miles away watched it through telescopes and field glasses in the early evening. They saw it about two miles away. It was cigar-shaped

4. Otago Daily Times, August 6.



with a carriage suspended below it and it had a large headlight. On about this date a Riwaka resident, 600 miles north, reported seeing a light rising and falling at intervals and zig-zagging across Tasman Bay⁵. Back in the Otago area residents at Clinton were reported briefly⁶ as having seen the object and heard the occupants talking.

About this time the Clutha Free Press apparently received a letter from a correspondent who said that an airship had come down at Port Molyneux. Some Japanese occupants had alighted who had conversed with him⁷. Unfortunately no further details are available on this case.

On July 27 a new type of airship was seen near

5. Nelson Evening Mail, July 24.

6. Clutha Leader, July 27.

7. Note the indications of a Japanese or Oriental origin for the airship seen over Galisteo Junction, New Mexico, in March 1880 ("An 1880 UFO," Flying Saucer Review, May-June 1965, Lucius Farish).

8. This intriguing titbit was mentioned in the Bruce Herald, Milton, on August 2.

CONTINUED

Balclutha. The Clutha Leader of July 30 reported:

On Tuesday about 10 a.m. Mr. Allan Mitchell, son of Mr. J. R. Mitchell, of Lamourne, and Mr. Alex Riach, while working at Lamourne near the mouth of the Pomahaka River, saw high in the air apparently over Messrs. Begg Bros. at Pukepoto a large boat-shaped structure floating in the air. It appeared to be coming straight toward them⁹ and they expected it to come over their heads in the direction of the Blue Mountains. It dipped up and down in the air with an easy motion and they could see it easily and had a good view of it, the distance away being about two and a half miles and pretty high in the air.

Their first impressions as to its shape were confirmed. It was distinctly boat shaped and they could see on the top of it what appeared to be a long pole. It continued with a dipping and ascending motion towards them for some time and then swerved to the left and crossed the river and headed across by Whitelea and disappeared.

At about this date at Broken River, near Lyttelton, a newspaper correspondent and other people reported⁹ they had seen a bright star approach the town from the south. It stayed in the area for about an hour and at times was so bright its reflection could be seen on the hillsides.

On July 28 an airship apparently came down over the city of Dunedin. A resident in the North Eastern Valley reported¹⁰ that he was

9. Christchurch Star, July 30.

awakened in the early hours, long before daybreak, by a peculiar noise he took to be an earthquake. "I was awakened by a horrible noise at about two o'clock this morning," he told a reporter. "The noise was like a ship dragging her anchor up or the windlass of a steamer with dry gear wheels working. I got up and went round to the front and I saw something floating up past Knox College. It was a great big black thing with a searchlight attached."

By now the airship sensation was at its peak. Reports were flooding in to newspapers in the lower half of the South Island. The two Dunedin newspapers, the Star and the Otago Daily Times gave the sightings startling in depth coverage. The space the stories occupied, especially on July 29, 30, and 31, would be easily equivalent to full front page coverage in modern newspaper layout.

On the night of July 29 a number of people in Timaru saw a strange light over the sea moving Northwards¹¹ and a short distance north at Temuka a police constable and two others watched a large headlight and a smaller one behind moving about.¹² A few miles northwards at Geraldine a number of people reported¹³ seeing a light in the sky. All agreed that the shape of the ship was that of a blunt headed cigar and that it carried two searchlights which swept the sky upwards and in various directions. On the same night two women returning from a dance at Waikaka, in

10. Dunedin Star, July 28.

11. Timaru Herald, July 31.

12. Timaru Herald, July 31.

13. Timaru Herald, July 31.

CONTINUED

Southland, reported¹⁴ seeing the lights of an airship which changed in colour from white to red to violet to green and then to orange:

A different kind of airship was reported on the afternoon of July 29. A young man in Christchurch said¹⁵ that he had seen a cone shaped object in the sky which gave the impression of being under control. That night an airship was reported for the first time on the rugged West Coast of the South Island.¹⁶ Passengers on the Hokitika train watched a mysterious light in the sky on approaching Greymouth. When the train arrived at Nelson Creek Station the passengers crowded on the platform to watch. The object came inshore and descended close to the breakers. It bobbed up and down for a time and then moved off against a strong wind.

The early morning of the next day saw a sighting that created great interest back in Southland. The Gore Standard reported that "the airship" came down near the Syndicate No. 2 dredge working on a river in the Waikaka Valley some miles north of Gore. At about 5 a.m. two lights broke through the mist and then the forms of two figures sitting in the air machine could be seen. The ship was narrow and boat shaped, the dredge winchman, Mr. F. Green, said the object came quite close to the dredge circling round for several minutes as he and the second dredgehand watched. At times it moved very fast and then slowed, at other

14. Dannevirke Daily Press, August 10

15. Thames Star, July 30.

16. Nelson Evening Mail, approx. July 31.

times it would poised itself and then dip bird like and rise again.

The object shot up into the mist leaving a yellow glare on the haze and then reappeared in a gap in the direction of Otakarama and disappeared. The master of the dredge arrived in Gore a few days later and he confirmed that his two men had seen the object. They watched it for some time before calling him from his sleep. However by the time he had dressed the object had gone.

On the day of this sighting the Clutha Leader published a letter from a correspondent who, like everyone else, had his own theory about the aerial visitors:

Mr. Robert Grigor, surveyor, Balclutha, propounds a new theory which is certainly as feasible as the airship theory. He writes: "With reference to the mysterious lights as seen at Stirling, Kelso, Milton and Invercargill, I make bold in all seriousness to look at the occurrence as a visitation from another world made by beings so far advanced in intellect and knowledge as at our present rate of progress in discovery and invention we may be at no very distant date.

The Chinese had a written literature 3000 years before us, and, if the progression had been made at the same rate as we are making now, what might not our knowledge and power be? Unfortunately the Chinese stood comparatively in the same plane, and made little progress. Not so the beings that are now visiting us.

I do not think that we may be afraid respecting the form in which those beings may present themselves to us. In Holy Writ

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NEW ZEALAND AIRSHIP WAVE OF 1909

we are told that God created man in his own image. Is it not reasonable to suppose, with the high ideal before us, that they are men of superior intellect, endowed with wisdom and knowledge acquired in long generations through which they have progressed, and that they have been able to solve some of the natural mysteries which we have as yet been unable to grasp.

We will presume that they have been able to make a machine capable of going through space--say an airtight cylinder supplied with compressed air from their own atmosphere, capable of keeping them alive for an indefinite period, with radium as a motive power and for light. They arrive in our atmosphere in the vicinity, and are hovering around to get accustomed to our atmosphere. They see the electric light at Kaitangata and the lights about the Waikaka dredges and Mataura, and they are seen at Kelso and Invercargill, which is probably the largest town they have as yet been able to discover. They seem to be able to live at an altitude of 3000ft or 4000ft and their first landing will certainly be at that height on some of our high lands.

Can we do anything for them? They may be in sore trouble after their supernatural journey. The height might be observed with an instrument and communication might be possible by captive balloon if they are not too high. Our searchlights might help and wireless telegraphy might be tried. Our present knowledge of the spectroscope could analyse the composition of the light. So many reports are now to hand that even

the Government might take a part in the investigation as I think it is a matter of great importance and well worth the attention of astronomical experts. Mr. Wragge, [Clement L. Wragge, an astronomer touring at that time] might give his version on the affair which is now exciting our district. Thousands of watchers are now on the lookout."

The Oamaru Mail of July 30 stated quite justifiably that:

There is something uncanny about the rumours that airships are hovering over the earth in the extreme north and south of this country. Airships appear, just at the moment, to be in the air. The trouble is that, not unusually, they have not cared to keep there, but have been victims of the law of gravitation [This is a reference to the Zeppelin experiments in Germany].

But the samples which have adorned the heavens in New Zealand appear to be less given to this fault of instability than those which have been produced in the world's great centres. Ours, according to all accounts, are amenable to absolute control. They show no tendency to fall and break themselves into kindling wood. The wonder is why, if, with comparatively slender resources of knowledge, mechanical ability, and money, New Zealand inventors of flying machines can succeed so well as is made out, difficulty is still experienced in the Old World in making them safe and effective.

The next day three interesting sightings were recorded. The Mataura Ensign, of Gore, reported that in the early morning a farmhand

CONTINUED

NEW ZEALAND AIRSHIP WAVE OF 1909

at Greenvale, while feeding horses in the early morning, heard a strange whirring sound which frightened the animals. On looking out he saw an airship overhead about 150ft long. It had head and tail lights and was moving so fast that when he woke up his mates the lights were faint in the distance. Also in the early morning a resident of Grosvenor St., Dunedin reported seeing an airship¹⁷. At one stage he saw a light (bright yellow) shoot up what looked like a mast and stay at the top. In the afternoon a Fairfax resident reported¹⁸ seeing an airship while he was at Akatore. At 4.55 p.m. he saw a dark object shoot over the brow of the hills in the east and rapidly climb towards the west. He got a side view of the object which he described as cigar shaped but bulkier, with a box like structure underneath in the centre.

From about this date sightings in the South Island gradually diminished. One of the last and most interesting was reported briefly¹⁹ by a Marlborough Sounds man who claimed that he saw an airship at a low altitude. When it was over his launch its occupants threw missiles at him. When they struck the water they made a strange fizzing sound before sinking. Unfortunately no further details were available on this sighting.

In the North Island meanwhile reports had started coming in in late July and, strangely enough, from the northern region first. Lights were seen at Auckland from about July 26 although never at close range.²⁰ The Thames

17. Dunedin Star, approx. August 2-3.

18. Bruce Herald, August 2.

19. Nelson Evening Mail, approx. August 6.

Star reported on July 31 that the airship had been seen by two highly respected citizens. "It has come at last," said the Star, "We have been expecting the dread news for weeks and though we have chafed at the delay we consoled ourselves with the knowledge that it was bound to come." The paper went on to say that the two residents had seen a strong light at about 1000ft circling over the town and then sailing off majestically in the direction of Miranda. The light was very strong resembling a search light, and was able to penetrate a long distance. It appeared to have a dark mass above it.

The New Zealand Herald, of Auckland, also reported that the manager of a farm at Dargaville in the north observed for about 15 minutes a cigar shaped object which moved along the coast five miles from the shore.

On August 3 sightings were recorded all over the Hawkes Bay area.²¹ Easily the best report came from Waipawa. The Hawkes Bay Herald, of Napier, wrote on August 6:

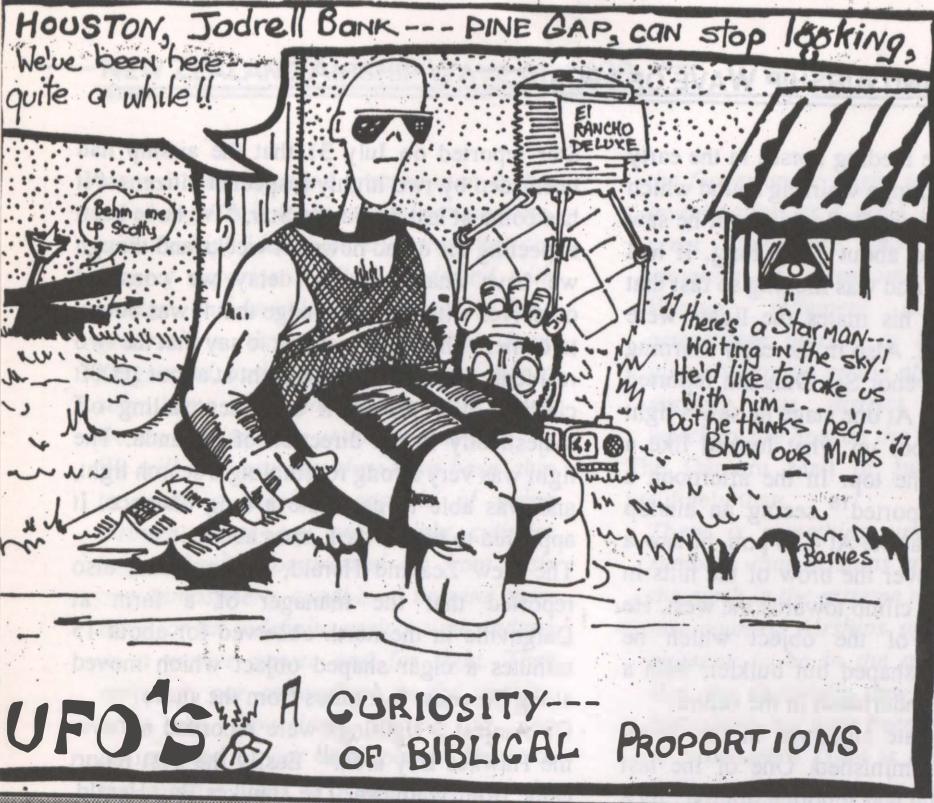
Our Waipawa correspondent writes: "A circumstantial story is being eagerly discussed in Waipawa of the seeing of an airship by a Waipawa man on Tuesday night.

He was riding near the racecourse and his horse became restive. He discovered as the cause that a large torpedo shaped structure was passing over his head. The airship, he states, was painted grey and

20. Both the Auckland Star and New Zealand Herald carried accounts.

21. Accounts were subsequently carried in the Hawkes Bay Herald and Hastings Standard.

CONTINUED



THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, Tuesday, March 29, 1966

UFOs Fly; Radioactive Ring Found

DETROIT (UPI) — Strange objects again were seen last night in the skies over southern Michigan and officials investigated a circular marking on the ground which gave off a radioactive reading.

The new sightings were reported near Ann Arbor, 40 miles west of Detroit, where residents have been seeing lighted objects for more than a week.

An off-duty Washtenaw County sheriff's deputy, Richard Sober, said he and about 30 of his neighbors watched from their front yards as the objects — flashing red, white, and green lights — flew overhead.

THEY WERE less than 500 feet in the air, witnesses reported. This was much lower than the 1,000 foot and higher elevations estimated in previous reports.

The reporter, Mack Wampler

The sheriff's office said its switchboard was flooded with calls about the sightings. Some came from the south edge of Ann Arbor, near Milan, and some from Dexter, to the northwest, where other unidentified flying objects were reported last week.

About 150 miles to the north, in the Michigan thumb area, Bad Axe police reported they were flooded with calls of sightings of flying objects.

Meanwhile, at Hillsdale, south of Ann Arbor, William Van Horn, Civil Defense director for Hillsdale County, investigated a circular marking in a gravel pit about a mile north of Hillsdale.

A NEWSMAN who accompanied Van Horn to the scene said there was a definite increase in the needle reading on a radio activity measuring device, when the official approached the circle.

The reporter, Mack Wampler

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2.43
Phenomenon unexplained

Cold-eyed non-terrestrials in a transparent cupola terrified two women, according to the UFO association's magazine. While out walking one evening the Hamar women, aged 22 and 30, became aware of a loud vibrating noise and were momentarily blinded by a powerful whitelight which stung their eyes. In the light source the women made out a triangular shape topped by a clear dome in which sat two "beings" with large, cold, penetrating black eyes. At a distance of just two metres one of the women claimed she looked into a pair of wicked eyes.

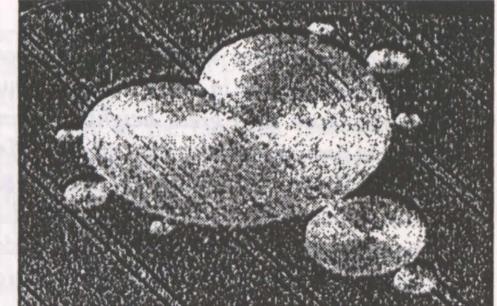
After hurrying home the terrified twosome heard the same loud humming and feared the space travellers' craft was going to come into their house. Both women experienced nose bleeding and became deaf. One claimed her vision had been affected and both described how they had felt drained of energy for a month after their meeting with the unknown.

"A near contact of the third grade" was how UFO Norge characterised the women's experience. In 90 to 95 per cent of reported sightings they found natural explanations, but in this case there was nothing to explain the phenomenon.

SHETLAND TIMES, Lerwick, England

- Aug. 7, 1992 CR: T. Good

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, London, England
Aug. 25, 1991 CR: T. Good



An aerial view of the complex wheat-field circles

Cornfield phantom has farmers foxed

by John Gaskell

THE MOST complex mathematical model — known as the Mandelbrot set — has appeared as a beautifully executed design in a wheat field south of Cambridge.

At first presumed to be an elaborate hoax perpetrated by Cambridge University students, the area of flattened cereal — only visible from the air — extended for about 180 feet and was first spotted by a commuting businessman from a light aircraft before the crop was harvested.

"I haven't a clue what caused it," said Mr Hugh Raybone, on whose farm at Burley, near Royston, the phenomenon occurred. "I certainly have not co-operated in any hoax."

His farming neighbour, Mrs Sian Wombwell, walked around the configuration.

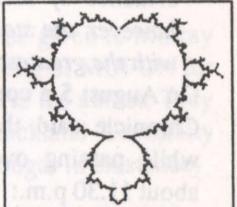
"I stood in the middle of it. It was quite astonishing," she said. "I graduated in biology and have been an agronomist by trade for 15 years. If this was a hoax it was extraordinarily clever."

Illegible neighbour, Mrs Sian Wombwell, walked around the configuration.

"I stood in the middle of it. It was quite astonishing," she said. "I graduated in biology and have been an agronomist by trade for 15 years. If this was a hoax it was extraordinarily clever."

"We know that it arrived overnight in a field of wheat 30 inches tall. It would have required floodlights to carry it out. It was incredibly precise," said Mrs Wombwell.

"Each circle was perfect,



A computer graphic of the Mandelbrot set

quarter of an inch above the soil. There were no footmarks in the tramlines left by spraying machinery and no sign of any machinery used to create the effect. It was beautifully done, but how, I can't even begin to speculate."

Cambridge mathematics department denies any involvement with the appearance of the arable Mandelbrot design — a computer-generated figure spawned via the vogue theory of "chaos mathematics".

The man whose discovery it was, Mr Benoit Mandelbrot, was very pleased to hear of the theory taking root.

"I think it's extremely amusing," said the computer researcher yesterday. "And it's certainly pleasing to be remembered in this way. But I can tell you, I plead not guilty. Was it a students' joke? I don't think it was the work of extra-terrestrials. I can't wait to see what the next one will look like."

FOLKESTONE HERALD, Kent, England

Aug. 14, 1992 CR: T. Good

Getting to the bottom of those strange sightings in the sky...

Book review by Robert Bush

THE large number of reported UFO sightings makes rejecting their existence on the grounds of science illogical.

This is just one of the theories put forward in *A Question Of Reason* by Rolverden resident Derek Shefield.

Such thinking, the author contends, could hold back our understanding of the universe, in much the same way as Ptolemy's theory of a universe centred on Earth held back astrological research for a millennium.

He goes on to challenge accepted theories concerning everything from the creation of the universe and formation of the planets, through the basis of religion, to the distribution of mankind and the existence of life on other planets.

While many of the pictures will mean

nothing to laymen, the book can still be read by those with limited knowledge.

The author's conclusions are based on the application of logical thought to known facts, as well as knowledge acquired through a deep interest in astronomy and a background in aviation.

Mr Shefield's flying career began as a pilot at Biggin Hill, from where he moved to Africa to work first as an aerial surveyor for the RAF, and then for the West Africa Airways Corporation.

He now directs a consultancy working in the printing field while putting together his second book on an altogether different topic — a humorous look at Kent country life in wartime.

A Question Of Reason is published on 20 August, price £11.95.



—NEW ZEALAND AIRSHIP WAVE OF 1909—

three persons were visible, one of whom shouted out to him in an unknown tongue. The ship rose to a great height, showing lights at prow and stern, and, after circling around, disappeared behind a hill. On the same night another resident saw a ship like structure high in the air, whence proceeded a humming sound. The ship was so high that it appeared only a yard or so long. A faint light came from the ship. Another resident asked her husband about the same hour that night, "what is the humming noise?" Others are coming forward with evidence of seeing lights etc. Generally, however, the stories are all being received with the greatest scepticism." ²²

On August 5 a correspondent of the Wanganui Chronicle said that he had seen the airship while passing over the Wanganui bridge at about 11.30 p.m.:

I distinctly saw a large airship flying down the river from Aramoho and passed out of sight in the direction of Castlecliff. It was flying at a height of about 200ft and I could distinctly see its two large wings, which made a hissing sound. I calculate it was travelling at 90 miles an hour at the least. It had a powerful light in the front and also one on either side.

22. The racecourse sighting was undoubtedly given greater coverage in the Waipawa Mail but the relevant 1909 volume has now disappeared. Further details may also be obtainable in the Waipukurau Gazette which is now apparently on file in the Napier Library.

On the same night two "wild eyed youths" dashed into the Chronicle office at 7 p.m. and said that only a quarter of an hour before they had seen a huge airship passing over in the direction of Mosstown.

Orange tinted lights were seen around Palmerston North a few days later, especially in the area of Stoney Creek. The Palmerston North Standard reported that a school boy who got up by mistake at 4.30 saw a very large orange coloured light coming up the Manawatu River at a height of about 100ft. The light appeared to flash from side to side.

At the goldmining town of Waihi sightings were made on August 9 though none were at close range. A New Zealand Broadcasting Service documentary of 1961 ran a short interview with an elderly Waihi woman who saw the object from her front door at about 8.30 p.m.

"It was like a big cigar shape," she said. "Dark. Was sailing along in the sky slowly. Not very quick. And it had bluish green lights on the front which shone and had lights on the side. Looked like windows. And behind it was a light that was leaving a trail like the Southern lights. And it wasn't travelling very fast, not like the planes of today, and there was no noise."

A day or two before the Waihi sighting, a clergyman in Melbourne, Australia, reported sighting an airship. Cabled sighting reports were also received from Mossvale and Goulburn in New South Wales.

At this point the New Zealand sightings ceased. For the rest of August no more sightings were reported. Then suddenly on September 1 an airship reappeared over Gore, in Southland,

—NEW ZEALAND AIRSHIP WAVE OF 1909—

and over a period of several days was reportedly seen by hundreds of residents.²³ With this strange and fleeting reappearance the airship sightings in New Zealand ended for 1909.

The New Zealand wave was preceded, as is now known, by similar sightings in Britain during March, April and May of 1909.²⁴ The USA experienced similar sightings from December, 1909, well into 1910.²⁵ In 1913 unidentified dirigible shaped objects visited Southern England²⁶ and in 1914 South Africa.²⁷

Prior to 1909, sightings of unidentified airship type objects were made over New Mexico in 1880²⁸ and over the USA in 1896 and 1897.²⁹ It is significant that the early sighting waves we know of all occurred over English speaking countries. It seems probable that the great wave which occurred between 1909 and 1914 was in fact world wide in nature, the lack of

information from other countries being due possibly to the fact that UFO research has been most thorough in the English speaking world and possibly to the fact that records of such early sightings probably do not exist in many of the less developed societies of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

This account of the New Zealand sighting wave was prepared after a trip made through both the North and South Islands in February 1967. Those areas which were not visited and in which further research of 1909 newspaper files could prove fruitful are Invercargill, Westland, Taranaki and North Auckland.

Editors Note: Thanks must be given to Murray Bott, the New Zealand Director of MUFON for contributing this article and to the author, Tony Brunt, convenor of the Auckland University UFO Research Group (no longer in existence)

23. Reports were run in the Gore Standard, Dunedin Star and Southland Times and others.

24. The sightings occurred in Wales and England. See the March-April, and July-August, 1960 issues of the Flying Saucer Review.

25. "Flying Saucers--Serious Business," Edwards. Chap. 1.

26. Flying Saucer Review, March-April, 1960, p28.

27. Ibid., July-August, 1962.

28. See Reference 7

29. Flying Saucer Review, January-February 1965, July-August 1966, September-October 1966.



CONTINUED

1909 N.Z. Wave-4



AUGUST 3, 1909, WAIPAWA, N.Z.
A HORSEMAN WHOSE HORSE ALMOST BOLTED,
WAS AMAZED TO SEE A UFO OVERHEAD WITH
THREE OCCUPANTS VISIBLE, ONE OF WHOM
WADED AND SHOUTED.

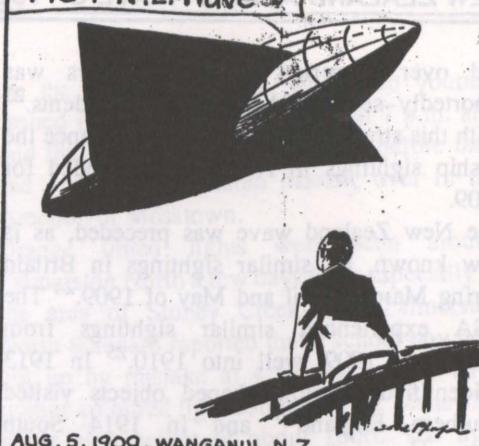
(CREDIT, TONY BRUNT).

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& Bell-McClure Syndicate Feature

6-19

1909 N.Z. Wave-5



AUG. 5, 1909, WANGANUI, N.Z....
A NEWSPAPER MAN REPORTED SEEING AN
ASTOUNDING UFO WITH TWO WIDE WINGS,
MAKING A HISSING SOUND AS IT FLEW.

(CREDIT, TONY BRUNT).

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& Bell-McClure Syndicate Feature

6-20

14th October, 1968

Mr. Paul Norman P.R.O.
Victorian UFO Research Society,
MOORABBIN VIC. 3189.

Dear Mr. Norman,

Your letter to "The Albany Advertiser", published 9th August last, announcing severance of relations with the University of Colorado, has prompted me to write, enclosing a copy of a newspaper report of 58 years ago, which may be of interest for your Society's files, if you have not already got it. I feel that were it issued in a newspaper today with perhaps the deletion of references to 'German airships', it would almost pass word for word as one of the accounts we have from time to time of 'alleged sightings of U.F.O.' As a matter of interest, we came by this when my husband was taking up old linoleums (many eras), from a very old office floor in Albany, preparatory to its being renovated. There were many curiosities among the old newspapers together with sheets of early pay-rolls of the P. & O. port men here during the 1870's. However the enclosed report fascinated us, as we belong to the section of public who wish we were considered fit to hear truer assessments of strange sightings than we do.

In this respect, does your Society issue bulletins or a regular journal concerned with your research? If so, we should be glad to know if we can obtain them (or it)?

Yours faithfully,
(mrs. A.W.)

Continued

MYSTERIOUS LIGHTS AT SEA.

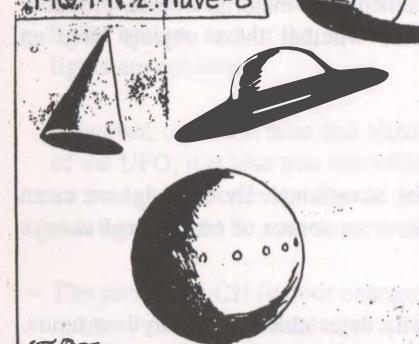
SEA-CAPTAIN PUZZLED. Adelaide, August 3.

Captain Nelsson of the coastal steamer Wookata, Second Engineer S. Arnold and Helmsman G. Rudd are at a complete loss to explain the meaning of curious lights which they witnessed when the vessel was passing Althorp Island on her way to Port Adelaide early the other morning. Bright lights 'as distinct as the masthead lights of a steamer but high up in the air,' were observed by the trio, and the strange thing was that they circled around Wookata in a tantalising way.

'It was about 1 o'clock', said Captain Nelsson today, 'that the man at the wheel remarked, 'Do you see these lights flying about?' My reply was, 'Yes, there are a great many more lights about than I have ever seen here.' Just then I saw a mysterious light off Cape Spencer, which disappeared as suddenly as it came into view. Presently the helmsman said, 'It is strange, but I have seen lights on the port bow, then right ahead, and then on the starboard side.' I stepped inside the wheelhouse, and on coming out again saw two lights just over the starboard bow no distance away, but high up. They seemed to pass us. They were as bright as our masthead lights, and as far as I could judge were from 200 to 300 yards distant. They were not high in the air. The lights appeared to be 10 yards apart, one a little above the other. I could not make it out. I said to the man at the wheel, 'Did you see them?' He answered, 'Yes, they are like German airships flying about.' I did not know what to think. I feel sure I saw something unusual - something which in my 45 years' experience of the sea I have never observed before.'

Second Engineer Arnold also declared that he saw the strange lights.

1909 N.Z. Wave-6



DURING THE NEW ZEALAND "FLAP"
OF ABOUT ONE MONTH IN 1909, A VARIETY OF
DIFFERENT UFO'S WERE REPORTED, MANY OF
THEM QUITE SIMILAR TO THE FLYING SAUCERS
REPORTED TODAY, PROVING THEY WERE HERE
LONG AGO ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS.

(CREDIT, TONY BRUNT).

6-21

Aliens 'took me from my car'

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England
CR: T. Good
AUG. 15, 1992

A West Midlands businessman told a UFO conference how he was 'abducted' by aliens as he drove in Oxfordshire.

Mr Graham Allen told 500 enthusiasts in Sheffield that he was moved 20 miles further along the road - past his destination.

Sin

then he has had flash-back recollections of the alien "abduction experience", he said at the two-day International UFO Conference at Sheffield's Central Library Theatre.

Speakers included experienced UFO researchers from the United States, Mr William L Moore and Mr John Keel.

During the conference, organised by the Independent UFO Network, Mr Moore is outlining his research into the so-called MJ12 documents.

These allegedly detail the US government's recovery of a crashed alien spacecraft and its dead occupants.

WHY DO UFOs HAVE LIGHTS?

An essay

Abstract

From the very beginning one of the characteristics of unidentified flying objects has been the presence of lights, varying in colour, intensity, shape and behaviour. Those properties have been recorded *ad nauseam* in the literature, to the extent that for the general public the majority of UFOs are no more than mysterious lights moving in the sky.

However, no serious attempt has been made to assert the potential significance of those luminous manifestations. The purpose of this essay is --if I am allowed the pun-- to cast light on that matter.

Assumptions

Some schools of thought which deny the objective reality of the UFO phenomenon will undoubtedly consider this paper superfluous, because how can the lights of nonexistent artifacts have any significance at all? However, I believe that most researchers will agree that the UFO phenomenon exists, but will have very different opinions of its nature, depending on which specific hypothesis they favour. They will also accept, in general, that lights are an observable characteristic of the phenomenon and that a considerable body of evidence --anecdotal if you wish-- has been accumulated about those lights and their behaviour. It is then legitimate to survey and correlate the best of that evidence and see what conclusions --if any-- emerge.

We will refer systematically to the information contained in UNICAT, a computerized data base of high-quality UFO incidents, in which all cases suspected of psycho-sociological explanation have been eliminated. This does not imply that such cases do not exist, but simply that we consider that the practitioners of other disciplines, like sociology or psychology, are better equipped to deal with them. Thus, an implicit assumption is that the lights are attached to a material object, probably intelligently controlled. No information is available to decide whether these objects have an extraterrestrial origin.

The presence of lights

The first point to consider is that lights must be either essential or optional. By essential we mean lights associated with the operation of the craft, its propulsion, or its source of energy, and always present when the craft is in flight.

This will imply that UFOs should always have lights, not easily detectable during daytime hours, but pinning down their location at night. This, of course, could be the explanation why most incidents occur in darkness, when their visibility is optimized. Conversely, there would be no night

— Continued —

WHY DO UFOs HAVE LIGHTS?

incidents establishing the presence of UFOs without lights. But this simply is not the case.

The literature is full of examples in which UFOs have been detected not by their own lights, but by external light sources, such as street lights, or by the reflection of moonlight. Since those incidents always occur at night under poor visibility conditions they typically have a low information content and short durations.

One of the better documented cases is the near collision of an American Airlines DC-6 bound for Washington, DC, on 531019 (Oct. 19, 1953) with an object that carried no running lights and was described by the captain as a shining thing gleaming with reflected moonlight (Ref. 1). A second example is taken from the Blue Book files (Ref. 2), in which a senior pilot with 14 years of experience reported an object he glimpsed that was illuminated by ground lights and moving on a straight and level path. The official evaluation was "bird".

Also significant are those incidents when the UFO is painted by radar, but not detected visually. The UNICAT data base contains about a dozen of those RO (radar only) cases, of which the most interesting is the Nenana, Alaska incident, occurring on 520122 (January 22, 1952) and described in the Blue Book files (Ref. 3).

Three F-84's were scrambled one after another in a two-hour episode, during which time strong radar returns were observed both on ground radar (Murphy's Dome) and the onboard radars of the planes. One of the jets approached within 200 yards of the target, but pulled out for fear of a collision. No visual contacts were made, and no malfunction of the radar was to be detected afterwards. The official files contain 12 statements from pilots and radar personnel, but the case was summarily dismissed as "*abnormal atmospheric conditions*", although the dossier describes the weather as a clear dark night with 15 miles visibility and extremely cold temperatures.

And of course, flying objects without lights would move undetected below the radar horizon, a very desirable strategic advantage for intruders in the atmosphere. All the above weakens the essential lights option, and in the absence of evidence to the contrary we are compelled to accept that the lights are optional.

However, one must note that although the lights are almost certainly not essential for the operation of the UFO, it is also true that often enough the colour and intensity of the lights have been reported as changing in correspondence with the dynamic behaviour of the unknown. Thus, the possibility that lights could be associated with certain UFO maneuvers remains open.

The parameter CH (colour changes) appears in about 10% of the cases listed in UNICAT, as well as in many of the incidents reported in the Blue Book files. For instance, on 520416 (April 16, 1952), a SAC Commander of the 301st Bomb Wing having more than 3000 hrs experience and a second witness observed a very bright white light reversing its motion in a tight turn, becoming pink during the turn and then red on the reciprocal heading (Ref. 4).

continued

Structured crafts or only lights?

A popular misconception is that the majority of UFO incidents, as reported from all corners of the world, involve only lights. But is it really so? The answer is no, and the large percentage of night lights in the published literature is due almost exclusively to the absence of a critical selection process in the compilations, based in general on press clippings and not on more sophisticated reports prepared by able investigators. For instance, in a recent survey (Ref. 5), we find that 66% of the incidents are classified as NL (night lights).

But in Dr. Hynek's nomenclature (Ref. 6), nocturnal lights are by definition distant events, their nature remaining uncertain until investigated by competent researchers. This is mostly ignored in the usual compilations, and a very different picture emerges when using a sophisticated data base such as UNICAT.

The pertinent parameters are:

CR = craft --The presence of a structured object follows from the available information.

NO = lights only -- No indication of a solid object is found in the report.

The following table summarizes the results obtained from UNICAT.

Table 1:

CR	NO	%	UFO
XX		70.6	
	XX	26.3	
		2.4	RO
XX	XX	0.7	C1, C2

The first thing to note is that there is practically no overlap of the parameters. Each entry fits neatly into one of the two categories: structured object or lights only. The few exceptions (6 cases) correspond to incidents characterized by two distinct phases. Then there are cases which do not display either CR or NO, corresponding to radar only (RO) events, which are far more numerous than shown here. The reason for the apparent low number of RO cases is that their information content is usually low, and hence disqualifies them for a UNICAT entry, even if well documented.

Having determined that the majority of UFOs are structured objects, and that the lights they exhibit are not essential for their operation, we consider that there are two, and only two reasons why any vehicle would have lights:

continued

- i) to allow the occupant(s) or controller(s) not on board to see and navigate in the surrounding environment.
- ii) to attract the attention of others, either to decrease the risk of collision or just to advertise their presence for purposes of their own.

How do those possibilities apply to the case of UFOs? The first option is belied by the evidence that UFOs fly at night, as we discussed above, unassisted by lights. We can only speculate about the possibility of numerous UFOs moving close to the ground to avoid radar detection, and which, in the absence of lights, are otherwise invisible. Whether they are nuts and bolts in nature, or the creation of deranged human minds, they seem to have an uncanny ability to spot approaching fighters and successfully take evasive action.

A remarkable example of this behaviour occurred on 860519 (May 19, 1986), when at least six jets of the Brazilian Air Force unsuccessfully chased several fast moving lights over the states of Sao Paulo and Rio, in an incident that lasted hours (Ref. 7). Although visually the lights were fuzzy, they produced solid returns from both on ground and onboard radars, and changed colours through red, white and green. The cat-and-mouse game was upsetting for the pilots when the lights eluded the fighters and approached them from the rear. This protracted incident is significant not only because of the qualifications of the witnesses involved, but mainly because it was openly released to the press by the government and the military in Brazil.

Conclusions

From the above discussion based on observational evidence it seems that UFO lights are not essential for their continued operation, although colour changes at times are apparently connected with sudden maneuvers involving high accelerations.

The lights are not needed for navigation, since UFOs, like our more sophisticated aircraft, don't need to have visual contact with the environment, and manage quite well to avoid pursuers and obstacles. This leaves us with the alternative that the operators make use of those lights in order to be seen when such visibility suits their purposes, whatever they may be. This option is disturbing, as it apparently rules out the hypothesis of a rare but natural phenomenon, while shoring up the idea of nuts-and-bolts machines controlled by an intelligence.

Of course, one could do as the defenders of the psycho-sociological hypothesis who following the ideas of Monerie, conclude that since "*les OVNIs n'existent pas*" the correct line of action is to dismiss forthwith all the evidence used above as merely nonsense.

Dr. Willy Smith
UNICAT Project
October 1, 1992

UFO Flap - Over Canberra

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REPORT OF SIGHTING BY ANDREW PARKINSON & MARIEM OMARI

DATE: Saturday, 8th August 1992
TIME: Approx. 8:15 (or 8:25) p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

Andrew and Mariem had just been to the Movie Supermarket in Phillip and were returning home to Wanniassa along Atthlon Drive. They were somewhere between Torrens and Sulwood Drive (Farrer Ridge) when Andrew caught sight of an orangy red light through the top right-hand side of the windscreen.

He was able to observe this light unhindered as Mariem was driving (her car) and he was sitting in the passenger seat. The object appeared to him to be at about the same height as the top of Mt. Taylor although not

directly over it.

After a short while (possibly no more than 30 secs.), Andrew drew Mariems' attention to it and she was able to view it through the drivers' side window. By this stage Andrew was also watching it through this window.

The night was dry, but there was some patchy cloud. The object appeared to duck in and out of the clouds, although its glow remained faintly visible through the clouds. The object would have been over the Wanniassa/Kambah area at this time. It appeared to be moving very slowly and then, suddenly dropped a "fiery object through the bottom", which resembled a firecracker and appeared to burn out about halfway to the ground. Andrew estimated that they watched this "firecracker" for about ten seconds and thought it fell at a normal rate (i.e. gravitational acceleration). It appeared to fall on the Torrens/Pearce side of Mt. Taylor.

The couple kept driving until they reached the Wanniassa shops roundabout on Atthlon Drive, then deciding the object was so unusual it was worth pursuing, they turned around and started back up Atthlon Drive, turning left onto Sulwood Drive, toward the Parkway. By this time, the object was out of sight behind Mt. Taylor.

The couple then turned right onto the Tuggeranong Parkway and regained sight of the object at the Hindmarsh Drive exit. The object now appeared to be over the Weston Creek area (possibly Holder). They got out of the car and watched the object until they could no longer see it.

On getting back in the car, they

looked over and saw another two identical objects coming around Mt. Taylor, following the same flight path. One was following the other and they appeared to be about a handspan apart at arms length (Andrews' estimation). The clouds had disappeared at this stage.

The objects appeared to be no more than slow moving orange lights. They emitted a steady glow and were larger than the stars. The colour and intensity of the light did not appear to vary. No contrails were evident. Andrew estimated their size no bigger than 2 or 3 cars but Mariem was emphatic that they were very little.

The couple decided to give chase to the objects but had to wait quite a while for the objects to get ahead of them. Andrew estimated their velocity at approx. 70km/hr. Andrew checked the clock in the car and found it to be 8:35 p.m.

The couple continued along the Parkway, travelling between 60 to 70km/hr and stopped on the slope just short of the Cotter Road exit. The objects were then almost directly above them and appeared to have maintained the same altitude as the first one, possibly 1000m (Andrews' estimation).

It was then that the rear object dropped another "firecracker", which also appeared to burn up about halfway to the ground. This flare was not as intense as the first one and Andrew estimated that it only took approx. 3 secs. to burn up. This "firecracker" may have landed no more than 50m from the road in a paddock on the Weston Creek side of the Parkway and appeared to be no more than 1/8th the intensity of the parent object.



— UFO FLAP OVER CANBERRA —

Both objects then appeared to change direction. They reversed for about 50m (Andrews' estimation), turned left and headed toward Belconnen, following the approximate path of the Molongolo River.

The couple began to give chase up the Cotter Road, but realized that they did not have enough petrol. They stopped and watched the objects disappear over Belconnen, gradually fading away into the distance.

The couple were adamant that the objects were totally silent. They could hear the ambient night noises and more distant traffic. Neither one could remember seeing any other air traffic for the duration of the sighting and were unsure as to whether the Moon was visible, although they both noticed stars in the sky. It was about 9:00p.m. when they arrived home at Andrews' place in Wanniassa.

Mariem Omari is 20 years old and is currently unemployed. She has watched T.V. documentaries on U.F.O.'s but claims not to have read any books on the subject. She also claims to have had an earlier sighting, when she was 15 years old.

She was with a friend on Mt. Rogers in Belconnen when they observed a very bright, round light for about 5 minutes. This object seemed to have disappeared when they diverted their attention momentarily. She remembers that it was about 5:00p.m. daylight saving time, but does not recall the month or date.

Andrew Parkinson is a 23 year old musician. He has an active interest in the paranormal, but claims no specific interest in U.F.O.'s. He has also had an earlier sighting, which occurred

about 4 or 5 years ago.

He and a friend (who is now in Qld.) observed a large triangular object with lights, performing aerobatic maneuvers over the Mt. Taylor/Tuggeranong Valley region. This display was also witnessed by others. Apparently, everybody sat around on the bonnets of their cars and watched it. It was thought that the object was some kind of delta wing jet, although it appeared to make vertical maneuvers. Andrew can no longer recall the time of the sighting or the date.

Mariem and Andrew were interviewed separately by Kerry Forides and Clare Williams. It is the opinion of the researchers that they are genuine. They independently drew diagrams which agree reasonably well.

A check with Fairbairn Air Force base revealed that no unusual activity had been recorded for the night in question. The Air Force was not conducting any exercises that evening, neither was the Helicopter Training School which has the only helicopters in the region.

Calculations were made on the decent of the "firecrackers" in an attempt to estimate the height of the objects. Their rate of descent was taken to be constant at the gravitational acceleration rate of -9.8m/sec/sec. Using Andrews' estimated times of 10 secs. and 3 secs. respectively for the objects to reach halfway to the ground. These calculations gave an initial height of 980m and 88.2m respectively.

The first result agrees fairly well with Andrews' estimate of 1000m, but the second result is anomalous if the objects were at the same altitude. It may well be that Andrews' estimates of the duration of the events is in-

accurate, as it is very difficult to recall the duration of an event in seconds several days after the event.

Given the apparent distance covered by the objects and the duration of the sighting, it seems likely that the objects' velocity averaged approx. 60km/hr.

There was a gibbous moon, although neither witness paid it much attention.

At the time of the writing, no investigation has been made for possible physical traces left by the "firecrackers".

REPORT OF SIGHTING BY A PEARCE HOUSEWIFE

DATE: Saturday 8th August 1992
TIME: Approx. 8.30-9.00 pm
DURATION: 15 - 20 minutes

The witness, who wishes to remain anonymous, was standing on her front patio with her grandson, waving goodbye to her dinner guests, when her attention was drawn to a small, bright, golden light in the southwestern sky.

She thought at first that it was an aeroplane, but as watched it, she became aware that it had no flashing signal lights and she could not discern any engine noise.

She and her grandson both watched it approach and apparently travel between their location in Pearce and Mt. Taylor. By this time, the object appeared as a solid, gold, featureless, flat disc, with an apparent diameter of the Moon.

It was at this point, over Pearce,

that something appeared to drop, either off the edge or from underneath the disc. The witnesses were unable to precisely determine the "drop's" point of origin. This dropped object appeared to be the same colour as the parent disc (gold) and looked solid, if somewhat jagged in shape. This object apparently disintegrated before it reached the ground and was only visible for a second or two. It appeared fall straight down and at a normal rate (i.e. gravitational acceleration).

The disc sailed on without hesitation, travelling at a slow, steady pace. The witness described it as "very relaxed and elegant". She was unable to determine its' source of illumination.

The witnesses watched the the disc until it was obscured by a tree in the neighbour's yard. They went through the house and out onto the back patio, where they were able to observe it until it was obscured by the trees lining the back fence of their yard.

Just as this first object was going out of sight, they saw a second disc, apparently identical to the first and following the same flight path. The witnesses estimated the two discs to be about a kilometer apart. They watched the second disc until it too, went behind the trees and was lost to sight.

The sky was partly cloudy and witnesses recalled seeing some stars. The objects seemed to be below cloud level and witness felt that it was in front of and possibly below the height of Mt. Taylor.

The objects were at approx. 45° elevation and appeared to travel from a southwesterly to northwesterly direction. They

seemed totally silent throughout the duration of the sighting.

The witness professes no prior interest in UFOs and it is the opinion of the investigators that she is genuine. We were not able to interview her grandson.

CONCLUSION:

It seems to the investigators that this sighting is reasonably consistent with that of Andrew Parkinson and Mariem Omari. The date and time correlate very well as does the location, although Parkinson and Omari were further away.

It is the considered opinion of the investigators that the two discs observed by the Pearce housewife correspond to the latter two objects pursued by Parkinson and Omari. It seems likely that this sighting took place while the objects were obscured from the view of Parkinson and Omari, by Mt. Taylor.

From this, it can be surmised that all three objects were observed to drop something which apparently disintegrated before reaching the ground.

Investigated by Clare Williams, David Mudge, Tony Healy.

SIGHTING OVER RIVETT

Date: A Wednesday or Thursday in May 1992 Time: 6.00pm

Investigated by: Clare Williams

Witnesses Statement:

I was driving along Streeton Drive at about 6.00pm, towards the traffic lights (on Hindmarsh Drive) near Coolamon Court. I

looked up to the sky and saw an object too unreal to be like anything else I have seen before.

I was very astounded by its' size and all the red lights beneath the craft. The size would have been approx. twice to three times the size of the full moon on its' length (and) flat looking above the craft.

It was very low and moving at a very slow pace.

I was turning into Hindmarsh to get to Rivett. By the time I had reached Gungurra Cres., the craft was moving towards Sterling and Waramanga.

I estimate the duration of the sighting to have been 3 to 4 minutes.

Investigators Comments:

The sighting occurred on a Wednesday or Thursday evening sometime in May 1992. Witness could not recall the exact date. It should be noted that the area is on an approach path to the airport and there are frequent low flying planes although the witness should be familiar enough with them to distinguish the difference. There were footballers playing in the Rivett playing fields which were floodlit at the time. The footballers appeared to be oblivious to the object even when it was directly over them. The object flew off in the direction of Mt. Taylor and the witness lost sight of it at that point.



Sighting Reports

Victorian Sighting Reports

8 - 12 - 92 Aspendale. Midnight. Ann and Mark were excited when they observed two rather erratic-moving lights descending from high in the sky over Aspendale-Edithvale beach about midnight. The objects then stopped side by side, then began to move erratically, described by the couple as dancing together, still high above the horizon. They stopped once again, then disappeared. One of the observers was an Air Force employee.

22 - 1 - 93 12.05 Sebastopol. Mr S. sighted a triangular-shaped object with a blunted end and four orange lights along each side. He was standing outside, with a 'good view of the object'. He could hear no sound, and it was flying towards south-east, where it disappeared in 15 seconds.

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Queensland Sighting Reports

Reprinted from *The UFO Encounter No. 148 August/September 1992*

June 1992 - A 34 year old woman was outside standing under a tree at 6.30pm when she saw an iridescent green light, about the size of a ping pong ball fly straight and very fast through the sky then disappear.

8th May 1992 - A 30 year old woman was travelling south down the Bruce Highway from the Sunshine Coast to Brisbane when she observed a bright stationary light above the treeline. The object was in the shape of a dinner plate and very clearly defined. After looking at the object a second time the witness noticed it to have a slight hump on top in the middle. Then it seemed to shutter a few times before moving in an upward arc direction and then out of sight.

August 1974 - Our witness was in Winton for the opening of the first outback festival. An object was observed that at first looked like a satellite, but slowly descended to hover over the main street where all the evening activities were taking place. As it descended it seemed to draw all the power from the lights etc. and the street lights all dimmed till the whole town was almost in darkness. The object was a very large craft the shape of a ball, and was all lit with flickering lights at the bottom. It hovered there for 30 minutes and slowly lifted straight up and continued its orbit across the sky. There were approximately 1000 people in the street who observed it. A friend of the witness was with her at the time who was an ABC correspondent who filmed the whole thing, but the film was sent to the Government as she was told it would create public panic.

October 1990 - A 50 year old man and his son went out to check what was causing their cattle to run about. They had been having trouble for the previous week, so they grabbed their rifles and torches. The son was the first to see the cause for their concern and yelled so loudly his father spun around to see what was wrong. What they saw was a huge object that had no distinctive outline and just seemed to blend into the surroundings. It looked like crumpled up chocolate tinsel paper of various colours ranging from silvery yellow, silvery blue, then to silvery burgundy. After 30 seconds, the object faded from view.

October 1946 - A 21 year old man was looking under the bonnet of a car when he heard a noise behind and above him. On spinning round to see what it was he saw a shining aluminium object that was the size of a DC3 and had windows down the side. At one of these windows there was a face looking directly at the witness, and he at it. The face looked inhuman. The witness ran across the road keeping his eyes on the object and on the face. In his own words, "I stopped my run drawn to the eyes of the face. I KNEW IT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT I WAS LOOKING AT IT." The witness watched the object do a gradual turn and start to go behind the Glenelg Town Hall tower. He raced through the house and out onto the beach, about ten seconds in time, but it was gone. He thought it must have crashed because he could not comprehend how the object could disappear, so he rang the Parafield Control Tower. They informed the witness they did not know of any plane in the area.

SOCIETY NEWS

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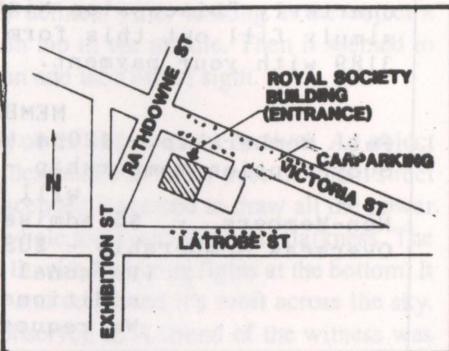
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SOCIETY HISTORY

1957

At this point perhaps it may be opportune to present a brief history of the Victorian U.F.O. Research Society.

The earliest U.F.O. group to form in Australia was the "Australian Flying Saucer Bureau" under the direction of Edgar Jarrold and Andrew Tomas, in the early 1950s. At the same time, Fred Stone inaugurated the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" in Adelaide. After approximately two years the Bureau closed down and was regarded as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" under Andrew Tomas. This shortly broke from Adelaide and became the "Australian U.F.O. Investigation Centre" with Dr. Clifford at its head until 1958, when the Presidency passed to Dr. Lindtner.

The "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (Victorian Branch)" was formed on the 17th February, 1957 as a branch of the "Australian Flying Saucer Research Society" and later that year was re-organised as the "Victorian Flying Saucer Research Society" with Mr. Peter E. Norris L.L.B. as President. In 1968 the name was again altered – this time to the "Victorian U.F.O. Research Society".

During this time, the Society has published various papers and is probably best known for its publication Australian Flying Saucer Review, curtailed in 1972 due to high costs and subsequently superseded by the Australian U.F.O. Bulletin and at one stage sponsored and produced a quarter-hour program on a Melbourne radio station under the heading of "The Truth Behind Flying Saucers".

In 1978, following the resignation of Mr. Peter Norris the current executive, Mrs. Judith Magee, Messrs. Paul Norman and Clive Yates, was placed in control, ensuring the continuing prosperity of V.U.F.O.R.S. The Society has held a dispassionate attitude on U.F.O.s, claiming it is a scientific problem deserving closer attention. It has also met regularly in general meetings and discussion nights and maintained the largest U.F.O. library in the southern hemisphere. Unfortunately, the loss of books, probably due to the high cost of postage has forced V.U.F.O.R.S. to discontinue this service to members.

Membership of this Society – which maintains the largest membership of any U.F.O. organisation in the Southern Hemisphere – is open to all who are genuinely interested in the subject.

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